

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H-329, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel
Chairman
House Democratic Caucus
202A Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Majority Whip Clyburn and Chairman Emanuel:

Thanks to your consideration of our request, several House committees have begun hearings on immigration issues. We look forward to the inclusion of H.R. 4088, the Secure American through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act, sponsored by our colleague, Rep. Heath Shuler, in these deliberations. We write to urge you to ensure that the committees keep these hearings on track.

We seek to build on the \$3 billion that Congress recently appropriated for border security, as well as legislation to fight alien smuggling. As cosponsors of H.R. 4088, we want to make certain that the SAVE Act is perfected through an efficient committee review and constructive legislation is brought to the House floor for a vote as soon as practicable. The country needs and wants additional legislation that can be passed by both Houses of the Congress and signed into law by the President.

Illegal immigration is a critical issue that the nation must address. We believe strongly that Mr. Shuler's bill represents a meaningful step in the right direction. H.R. 4088 provides much-needed enforcement at our nation's borders by providing additional border patrol agents over the next five years and implementing new monitoring technology to secure our border. The bill also provides for mandatory employment verification that will ensure only workers with legal status are employed in this country. By mandating an employment verification system for all workers, we can ensure that law-abiding employers get the information they need, and limit the ability of unscrupulous employers to skirt the law.

For many years, previous Congresses failed to update our immigration laws. At the same time, the Bush Administration has failed to secure our borders and enforce the laws already on the books. Serious action is long overdue. We urge the committees to move the SAVE Act in an expeditious and constructive manner for consideration by all House Members.

Sincerely,

Steve Kagen, M.D.

Jason Altman

Rick Boucher

Kristen E. Gill

Jim Harkin

Steve Cohen